



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed with this letter is a communication from the Clerk of this Court affording you the opportunity, with the approval of the U.S. District Judge, to consent to the reference of any part or all of the proceedings in this case to a U.S. Magistrate Judge, including reference for final disposition.

Careful consideration should be given to this option.

To assist the federal courts in coping with dramatically increased caseloads, Congress authorized the reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge of any part or all of the proceedings in a civil case, both jury and non-jury, upon consent of all parties (28 U.S.C. § 636(c)). All of the U.S. District Judges in this District refer cases under this provision to our able and experienced U.S. Magistrate Judges who are almost always able to schedule early and firm trial dates in accordance with the needs of the parties.

Whether to consent to a reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge is entirely up to you and your client. This case has not been specifically selected for this program; the Clerk sends out this notice in every civil case. If a party declines to consent to a reference, that fact is known only to the Clerk and not to any of the District or Magistrate Judges.

This program has proved to be of great benefit to counsel, client, and the Court.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia C. Fawcett, Chief Judge

Hon. James D. Whittemore

Hon. Elizabeth A. Kovachevich

Hon. John Antoon, II

Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger

Hon. John E. Steele

Hon. Anne C. Conway

Hon. James S. Moody, Jr.

Hon. Steven D. Merryday

Hon. Gregory A. Presnell

Hon. Susan C. Bucklew

Hon. Timothy J. Corrigan

Hon. Henry Lee Adams, Jr.

Hon. Virginia Covington

Hon. Richard A. Lazzara

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE

District of

FLORIDA

Plaintiff  
V.NOTICE, CONSENT, AND ORDER OF REFERENCE —  
EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Case Number:

Defendant

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION**

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c), and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, you are notified that a United States magistrate judge of this district court is available to conduct any or all proceedings in this case including a jury or nonjury trial, and to order the entry of a final judgment. Exercise of this jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is, however, permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may, without adverse substantive consequences, withhold your consent, but this will prevent the court's jurisdiction from being exercised by a magistrate judge. If any party withholds consent, the identity of the parties consenting or withholding consent will not be communicated to any magistrate judge or to the district judge to whom the case has been assigned.

An appeal from a judgment entered by a magistrate judge shall be taken directly to the United States court of appeals for this judicial circuit in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of this district court.

**CONSENT TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

In accordance with provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, the parties in this case consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct any and all proceedings in this case, including the trial, order the entry of a final judgment, and conduct all post-judgment proceedings.

Party Represented	Signatures	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**ORDER OF REFERENCE**

IT IS ORDERED that this case be referred to \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Magistrate Judge, to conduct all proceedings and order the entry of judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73.

Date

United States District Judge

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT ONLY IF ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED ON THIS FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE.

AO 85A (Rev. 8/98) Consent to Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States Judge Over Specific Motion(s)

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE

DISTRICT OF

FLORIDA

Plaintiff

V.

Defendant

**CONSENT TO EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION  
BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
OVER DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS DESCRIBED  
UNDER 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1)(B)**

CASE NUMBER:

### CONSENT TO EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, the parties in this case consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct any and all proceedings and enter a final order as to each motion identified below.

**MOTION(S):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Party Represented

Signatures

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### ORDER OF REFERENCE

IT IS ORDERED that the above motion(s) be referred to \_\_\_\_\_,  
United States Magistrate Judge, to conduct all proceedings and enter a final order on such motion(s) in accordance with  
28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
United States District Judge

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT ONLY IF ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED ON THIS FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE.